

# U.S. Representative Grucci Visits BNL; Is Key Speaker at Small Business Fair

Peter Genzer

More than 200 representatives of small businesses attended a "Small and Small Disadvantaged Business Fair" at BNL on Monday, April 9. Co-sponsored by BNL and the Small Business Development Center at Stony Brook University, the conference offered a unique opportunity for small companies and small disadvantaged companies to learn how to do business with the federal government and its prime contractors on Long Island.

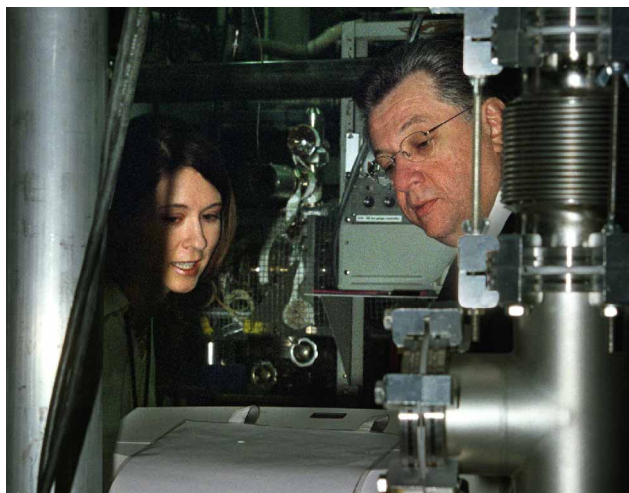
Long Island's freshman Congressman, Felix J. Grucci Jr., gave the keynote speech at the conference, focusing on the link between small businesses and the economic health of Suffolk County.

"Every large business, from manufacturers to systems research and retail organizations, was a small business at one time," he said. "With its \$400 million budget, this Laboratory has the ability to help many of these small businesses to prosper, create new jobs and put money back into the system."

"Grucci added that as the representative for the First Congressional District, he will seek out opportunities for small businesses to help them develop and grow. "The path is clear to me," he said. "I will do everything in my power to help and encourage small businesses."



*At the Small Business Fair are: (from left) U.S. Representative Felix Grucci, BNL Director John Marburger, and Franklin Denising, BNL. Co-sponsored by BNL and the small Business development Center at Stony Brook University, the fair allows small companies and small disadvantaged companies to learn how to do business with the federal government and its prime contractors on Long Island.*



*Lisa Miller of BNL's NSLS explains beamline experiments to U.S. Representative Grucci.*

Following the Congressman's address, attendees participated in a workshop/seminar that detailed the acquisition needs of the federal government and BNL, and learned how they could increase small and small disadvantaged business participation in this endeavor.

Afterwards, participants met individually with buyers, contract specialists, and technical representatives from BNL and other government contractors and toured laboratory facilities.

This is the eighth consecutive year that BNL has hosted the conference.

"Placing the end users and technical representatives in one central area is a unique strategy that allows diversified small businesses to provide their expertise to the individuals who actually do the ordering," said Dennis Hall, Procurement and Property Management Division. "No other small business fairs accommodate small business groups in this manner. Following his keynote address, Congressman Grucci toured several BNL facilities, including RHIC, PET and the NSLS. He concluded his first visit to BNL since winning the election by meeting with the BNL community at a town meeting sponsored by Friends of Brookhaven and Brookhaven Organization of Scientists. Grucci reiterated his support for BNL science and took several employee comments and questions on topics ranging from BNL's role in advancing better, cleaner energy sources to scientific education to world security."

*[Editor's note: Reprinted with permission from the BNL Bulletin - April 13, 2001.]*